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# THE GULL



GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER VOL. 90 NO. 10 DECEMBER 2005

FOUNDED 1917

## Golden Gate Audubon Sues County Over Bird Deaths

**O**n October 31, Golden Gate Audubon filed a lawsuit in Alameda Superior Court against the County of Alameda for failing to conduct an environmental impact report (EIR) on the Altamont Pass wind turbines, which kill thousands of birds illegally each year.

The California Environmental Quality Act requires the county to conduct an EIR before approving the permits to operate the wind turbines. But on September 22, 2005, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors granted 13-year permit renewals covering more than 3,600 turbines in the Altamont Pass Wind Resources Area (APWRA), despite significant new information regarding the extent of the bird kills at the wind farms. As many as 4,700 birds are killed by the spinning blades of the turbines each year, according to an August 2004 report funded by the California Energy Commission.

Although the new permit conditions are an improvement over past permits (which never required the wind companies to reduce bird kills), Golden Gate Audubon does not believe they go far enough fast enough. Moreover, the county is required by law to conduct an environmental review of the APRWA before approving the project. Conducting an EIR is an important step toward achieving the best possible solution to reducing bird deaths. The permit approvals do require an EIR but postpone that action for three years.

Perhaps most shockingly, the county's decision to postpone the EIR ignored the best available recommendations for reducing bird kills in favor of the wind industry's unproven claim of economic hardship. The wind companies asserted that they could not afford to do more to reduce bird kills but have repeatedly failed to disclose the financial information requested by the county and by the state attorney general Bill Lockyer's office that would prove this claim.



Wind turbines at Altamont Pass kill thousands of birds each year, including Golden Eagles and Burrowing Owls.

BIRD DEATHS, continued on page 10

## New Conservation Director for GGA

We are pleased to announce that Samantha Murray is Golden Gate Audubon's new conservation director. No stranger to Audubon, Samantha was previously assistant director of conservation at the Audubon Society of Portland. There she participated in launching a new coalition, Oregon Ocean, dedicated to marine conservation. This involved drafting and promoting legislation to establish a system of protected marine areas off Oregon's coast and resolving long-standing contentious issues among fishermen, government agencies, and legislators.

Samantha also served on a committee that created a plan to protect existing, as well as potential, habitat in Oregon for the threatened Western Snowy Plover. "This is vital for Oregon's 130 or so remaining individuals," Samantha says. The habitat plan was approved by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission.

At Portland Audubon, Samantha also organized events, recruited volunteers, and testified at public hearings on environmental policies. She helped develop and introduce Oregon's first Common Agenda, representing agreed-upon legislative priorities of more than 70 conservation organizations in Oregon.

Samantha earned a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Wisconsin and a law degree from Lewis & Clark Law School, where she was awarded a Certificate in Natural Resource and Environmental Law.

CONSERVATION DIRECTOR, continued on page 10

### INSIDE

**3** Saving Breuner Marsh

**4** Protecting the Least Tern

**4** 2005 Christmas Bird Count

**5** GGA Nature Store





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The Golden Gate Audubon Society was founded January 15, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948. Golden Gate Audubon Society membership is \$25 per year. Renewals should be sent to the Golden Gate Audubon office. The board of directors meets the fourth Monday of every month (except August and December) at 7:30 p.m. in the chapter office in Berkeley.

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# 2005 Brings Success and Growth



s the year draws to a close, I reflect on the past 12 months and marvel at the many wonderful things we have accomplished for Bay Area birds and other wildlife. Everyone at Golden Gate Audubon—staff, volunteers, members—has made important contributions to our successes, and I hope that you are all proud of what we've been able to achieve. Here are just some of our tremendous achievements over the past year.

- Introducing more than 2,000 East Oakland students and their families to the San Francisco Bay watershed through the Eco-Oakland Program's classroom work, hands-on restoration activities, and field trips.
- Helping to defeat a devastating proposal to build a large casino complex adjacent to the newly restored Martin Luther King, Jr. Shoreline, thanks in part to the many letters and emails sent to policy makers by Golden Gate Audubon members and by students in our Eco-Oakland Program.
- Expanding our efforts to restore California Quail habitat in San Francisco's Presidio and Harding Park through regular habitat restoration and monitoring.
- Launching an exciting new effort to ensure conservation of birds and their habitats at Eastshore State Park through a census of the park's birds and regular field trips that have already been attended by well over 100 people.
- Partnering with Albany Adult School to offer an expanded roster of classes on migration, birds of the Sierra Nevada, butterflies, and native gardening.
- Initiating a new website with comprehensive, up-to-date information on our many Bay Area conservation projects and other programs.
- Offering more than 100 free field trips, including monthly trips in English and Spanish at Arrowhead Marsh, led by experienced leaders..
- More than doubling our Supporting Membership and engaging an ever-growing number of people in Golden Gate Audubon activities.

These and many other successes would not have been possible without your generous financial contributions. At the end of each year, we send a letter to all of our members, sharing our accomplishments and asking you to renew your support.

Your support will be critical to the many challenges that still lie ahead, only some of which are highlighted in this issue of the Gull: protecting the endangered California Least Tern and creating the Alameda National Wildlife Refuge, addressing the tremendous illegal bird kill at Altamont Pass, and speaking out on behalf of a Richmond community that wants to preserve open space.

I hope you will support Golden Gate Audubon in 2006 as we strive to protect Bay Area wildlife and provide opportunities for people to explore and connect with nature—from birding activities and education to advocacy and hands-on restoration.

by Elizabeth Murdock, Executive Director

## Gull Changes Publishing Frequency

Beginning in 2006, the Gull will be published nine, rather than ten, times each calendar year. The January/February Gull, now a combined issue, will contain information on the Speaker Series and field trips for both months, along with our regular Observations and Backyard Birder columns, and the usual coverage of conservation programs and issues.

# Big Decision Ahead for Breuner Marsh and the North Richmond Community

The East Bay Regional Park District is set to decide in early December whether to acquire a 236-acre expanse of coastal wetlands and uplands on the North Richmond shoreline, known as Breuner Marsh. The district's proposal to purchase the site by eminent domain for \$4 million has been opposed by the Richmond City Council and by the property owner, who has proposed building a mixed-use housing development with more than 1,000 units on part of the site. On November 1, the park district delayed its final vote on the issue in order to continue talks with the developer about acquiring the land.

Breuner Marsh, adjacent to the park district's Point Pinole Regional Shoreline Park, is one of the last large, undeveloped coastal and upland habitats in the Bay Area. The wetlands attract innumerable species, including Osprey, Great and Snowy Egrets,

stood on a knoll above the wetlands, awed by the beauty of the tall colored marsh spread out before us, golden against the sparkling blue of San Pablo Bay, and framed by the shoreline hills in the west. "It's breathtaking," we exclaimed, as Bob pointed out an Osprey perched on a pole in the bay, American White Pelicans circling high in the sky, Willets roosting on a far island, and hundreds of Ruddy Ducks, scaups, cormorants, and terns in and over the bay.

We continued our walk along Rheem Creek on the southern end of the marsh, where Bob pointed out herons and egrets, Red-tailed Hawks, Killdeer, Northern Flickers, and Western Meadowlarks. Altogether that morning, we saw 36 species—not bad for casual birders.

Among the birders were residents of nearby Parchester Village, an African American community that has been fighting development of Breuner Marsh for years. Parchester Village residents want the Richmond City Council to keep a promise made to them a half century ago that the marsh and adjacent lands would be preserved as open space. Whitney Dotson, who has lived in Parchester Village since 1950, organized and heads the North Richmond Shoreline Open Space Alliance, whose members include Richmond residents and a number of environmental groups. Golden Gate Audubon supports the alliance and has helped it raise funds for the Richmond Shoreline Festival, held every year in Pt. Pinole park.

"Golden Gate Audubon will continue to support the alliance, the Parchester Village Community, and other efforts to save the marsh," says executive director Elizabeth Murdock. "This expansive natural habitat constitutes some of the last untouched wetlands and uplands in the Central Bay, and many species of birds and other wildlife depend on it for sustenance. Retaining the area as open space is equally vital to the health and well-being of Richmond residents."

Rheem Creek is a sadly degraded small stream that runs for more than three miles through western Contra Costa County and empties into San Pablo Bay from Breuner Marsh. The creek has been strangled by flood controlled channels, development



Parchester Village residents at Breuner Marsh

and grading and is choked by non-native vegetation. The Rheem Creek watershed is the subject of a \$440,000 CALFED-funded study to find ways to clean up and rehabilitate it. The study is being led by the nonprofit Natural Heritage Institute with four partners—Parchester Village Neighborhood Council, West County Toxics Coalition, Community Health Initiative, and Urban Creeks Council.

"The long-term health of the creek and success of this project depend on the commitment of the community," says Rich Walkling of the Natural Heritage Institute. "We're working closely with local residents to restore the creek, and we strongly support all efforts to save Breuner Marsh."

by Marjorie Blackwe

Carolina Balazs



Bob Lewis conducting a field trip at Breuner Marsh.

Northern Harriers, Loggerhead Shrikes, Short-eared Owls, and Clapper Rails. The uplands are a haven for land birds and other wildlife such as the endangered Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse. National Audubon has designated the entire North Richmond wetlands an "Important Bird Area," noting that Pt. Pinole attracts species uncommon in San Francisco Bay, such as Red Knot.

On a bright Saturday morning in mid-October, Golden Gate Audubon board member Bob Lewis led a bird walk along the edge of Breuner Marsh. A dozen birders

## How You Can Help

Write to the East Bay Regional Park District board of directors and urge them to preserve Breuner Marsh as park open space. Cite its importance for the birds and other wildlife that rely on the marsh habitat and its importance for the nearby community. Email your comments to Sharon Marshall, board secretary: smarshall@ebparks.org

# GGA Takes Action to Protect California Least Tern

**G**olden Gate Audubon has recently continued its long-term commitment to protecting one of the Bay Area's most endangered birds—the California Least Tern—with two important actions to ensure that the species and its northernmost nesting site at the Alameda Wildlife Refuge are protected. The Least Tern has been a key focus for GGA since the early 1990s, when we began our efforts to protect the Alameda colony as a critical effort to help the tern's recovery.

First, at the request of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Golden Gate Audubon funded a study of the status of the tern colony at the Alameda Wildlife Refuge. The assessment was done by Dr. Carolee Caffrey, Ph.D., of the College of New Jersey, a recognized authority on the tern.

The report found that the Alameda colony has been doing well, thanks in large part to the efforts of the U.S. Navy and USFWS

refuge staff to protect the site, and to the restoration work by GGA volunteers. Since 1990, the size of the colony's breeding population has been among the 10 highest in the state each year, and fledgling success has exceeded that of almost all other populations in the state. As a result, the Alameda population plays a critical role in the survival of the species and its long-term viability.

Dr. Caffrey's study also found that, while the number of terns nesting at the Alameda site has increased in recent years (some estimates put the number of nests in 2005 at around 550), breeding success can fluctuate significantly across years. During the last breeding season, the colony had high mortality rates from predators and lost many young chicks due to late storms.

Other continuing threats, such as human intrusions on habitat, predation by rats, cats, and other predators, plus reduction of the tern's prey species (which may be connected



Eleanor Brucetti

California Least Tern feeding chick at the Alameda Wildlife Refuge.

with rising ocean temperatures likely caused by human-induced global warming), will likely cause further decline in overall breeding success for terns throughout their range. The unhappy result may be that the tern will disappear from the California coastline.

GGA also worked with Dr. Caffrey to submit a letter to USFWS in September in response to the agency's decision to review the endangered status of the California Least Tern. This review could lead to possible de-listing or down-listing on the federal endangered species list, thus decreasing the protection the tern currently receives under federal law. Based on Dr. Caffrey's findings, GGA believes that the tern is still in danger of extinction and that the potential lowering of the tern's status would be "unwarranted, illogical, and imprudent."

GGA's letter further urged USFWS to update its twenty-five-year-old Recovery Plan for the tern to include new information on population numbers and current environmental conditions, so that realistic, appropriate, and science-based recovery goals can be established.

The Alameda Wildlife Refuge nesting site, the northernmost nesting site for the California Least Tern, will likely become even more critical as threats increase at other nesting sites. Furthermore, the impact of global warming, if it continues its present course, would probably cause a northward shift in the species' nesting range, thus increasing the importance of the proposed refuge. We will continue to keep you informed about the progress of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service review.

by Thomas Burchfield

## Last Chance to Sign Up for Bird Counts

**Oakland CBC: Sunday, December 18 San Francisco CBC: Thursday, December 29**

Don't wait another day to sign up for Golden Gate Audubon's two Christmas Bird Counts. Organizers of the two counts have begun assembling teams of birders, and you won't want to miss these enjoyable days in the field! Sponsored nationwide by the National Audubon Society, Christmas Bird Counts aim to identify and count the birds within a defined 15-mile-diameter circle. Within each circle, teams of observers guided by experienced leaders fan out to scour their assigned areas in search of wintering birds and the rare birds that always lend spice to a count. Both the Oakland and San Francisco counts welcome birders of any level of ability. You can bird from dawn to dusk or just part of a day if your time is limited. Feeder watchers who bird at home are also welcome; some species are often easier to find this way.

There's no better way to end the day than at the count dinner, where you'll have a chance to share field stories, tally final counts of birds seen, and exchange information on rare birds and their locations. Susanne Shields, GGA's hospitality chair, is arranging dinners that offer plenty of good, hot, nutritious food.

The deadline to sign up for the Oakland CBC is November 27, and for the San Francisco CBC, December 9. To sign up online, go to [www.goldengateaudubon.org](http://www.goldengateaudubon.org) and follow the links. You'll also find forms for joining the count dinners. If you sign up for the Oakland dinner by December 9 and the San Francisco dinner by December 16, you pay a reduced fee of \$12 (rather than \$15 at the door).

For further information, call Dave Quady (510.704.9353) or Bob Lewis (510.845.5001) for the Oakland count or Alan Hopkins (415.664.0983) for the San Francisco count. Volunteers willing to collect money, serve, set up, and clean up at the dinners are also greatly appreciated. Please call Susanne (415.810.4900) if you can help.

# Do Your Holiday Shopping at the Nature Store

**D**oes your gift list include an enthusiastic birder who would appreciate receiving a CD of bird vocalizations? Or a friend or family member new to birding who would like to carry the new, compact Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western North America on field trips? Or perhaps someone whose greatest pleasure is watching backyard birds and who would be thrilled to have a new bird feeder?

You can find all these items and many more, from books for seasoned birders to plush birds for children, at the Golden Gate Audubon Nature Store. Supporting Members of Golden Gate Audubon receive a 10 percent discount on all purchases, along with the satisfaction of knowing that the proceeds fund our conservation and education programs.

Field guides make excellent presents, and the Nature Store carries the latest editions of well-respected guides in addition to the Sibley books, including the *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America* and Kenn Kaufman's *Birds of North America*. One way to learn bird vocalizations is through the "Stokes Field Guide to Bird Songs: Western Region," a CD with the calls and songs of more than 550 species. For the computer savvy, there is "Our Birds California," software that features photos, maps, and videos, as well as vocalizations.



If children are on your gift list—or consider a book, such as *How to Draw a Bird* or the delightfully illustrated title titled *The Birdwatcher*, or a sticker book. Plush birds, each an accurate rendition of a California Quail, Mourning Dove, or other species and producing an authentic call or song when squeezed—are always popular with kids.

The Nature Store has feeders for holding thistle seed, sunflowers, suet, and sugar water for hummingbirds. The prices for birdseed are among the lowest anywhere in the Bay Area.

Everyone needs a practical hat to wear when birding. The new Golden Gate Audubon hat emblazoned with a California Quail created by Alan Hopkins is a perfect choice.

Finally, consider giving a Supporting Membership as a holiday gift (see page 12). With it come nine issues of the *Gull*, and the opportunity to keep up-to-date about Golden Gate Audubon's field trips, Speaker Series, and conservation programs.

Feel free to call us in advance of a visit to the Nature Store to make sure the item you want is available.

## Golden Gate Audubon Nature Store

2530 San Pablo, Berkeley

510.843.2222

Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

## Golden Gate Audubon Board Nominations

Golden Gate Audubon will have three slots open for elected members of the board of directors, with terms beginning on May 29, 2006. Member petitions for nominations must be submitted to the Golden Gate Audubon office by February 15, 2006, 12 weeks before the board election, which will be held on May 15, 2006. The petitions must be signed by a minimum of 100 (and a maximum of 500) members in good standing. The names of board candidates will be published in the April 2006 *Gull*, along with ballot forms for members to fill out and send in by May 15. If you wish to submit a nominating petition, please call executive director Elizabeth Murdock at 510.843.9912 or board development committee chair Jacqui Smalley at 510.665.0998.

## Winter Classes

Preregistration is required for Birding Basics and Bay Area Birds and will take place on December 14 at Albany Adult School, 601 San Gabriel Avenue, Albany. Other classes tend to fill so register early by mail or in person at 601 San Gabriel Avenue, Albany, CA 94706. For more information call 510.559.6580. For details on the birding classes, go to <http://home.comcast.net/~rlewis727>.

### Birding Basics

Bob Lewis. Learn the basics of birding and what to look for when identifying a new bird. Tues., Jan 10–Feb. 7, 7–8 p.m., plus 5 Sat. field trips. \$47.

### Bay Area Birds

Bob Lewis and Rusty Scalf. Sharpen your identification skills when observing shorebirds along coast, and ducks, geese, and cranes in Central Valley. Wed., Jan. 11–Feb. 15, 7–8 p.m., plus 5 Sat. or Sun. field trips and a weekend trip. \$55.

### Zen and the Art of Mushroom Hunting

Debbie Viess. Learn to spot, identify, and appreciate local fungi. Thurs., Jan. 19, 7–9 p.m., plus 2 field trips, Sun., Jan. 22, and Sat., Feb. 4. \$33.

### Gardening for the Birds and Other Friends

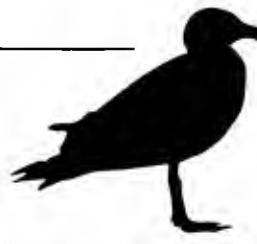
Corinne Greenberg. Welcome hummingbirds, butterflies, and migrating songbirds to your garden with California native plants. Thurs., Jan. 12–Feb. 9, 7–9 p.m., plus a Sat. field trip. \$42.

### Butterflies of the Bay Area

Moe Magoski. Learn the natural history and identification of local butterflies. Tues., Feb. 21–Mar. 14, 7:30–8:30 p.m., plus a Sat. and a Sun. field trip. \$42.

# FIELD TRIPS

Susan Groves



## Arrowhead Marsh Bilingual

### Family Trip

Oakland

Fridays, December 2, January 6

Leaders: Olga Rojas and Susan Groves,  
510.654.5954, groves.susan@gmail.com

Meet at 3:30 p.m. in front of lookout structure. We'll restore critical habitat for shorebirds and endangered Clapper Rails. We'll also check out the birds, so bring binoculars or use ours. Trip will be conducted in Spanish and English. All ages are welcome. Trip ends at 5:30 p.m. Students can earn community service hours for these trips.

Take I-880 to Hegenberger exit and go west on Hegenberger to Doolittle Dr. Turn right on Doolittle, then right onto Swan Way and left into MLK, Jr. Regional Shoreline Park. Drive to end for Arrowhead Marsh parking lot.

## Birding for Everyone

San Francisco Botanical Garden at  
Strybing Arboretum

Saturdays, December 3, January 7

Leaders: Angie Geiger and Nancy  
DeStefanis; Darin Dawson, 415.387.9160

Meet at 10 a.m. at kiosk/bookstore at front gate of Botanical Garden, Ninth Ave. at Lincoln Way. Trip ends at noon. Families welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

## Bicycle Trip: Arrowhead Marsh

Alameda County

Saturday, December 3

Leader: Kathy Jarrett, 510.547.1233  
(no calls after 9pm), call for cell number,  
kathy\_jarrett@yahoo.com

Meet at 7:50 a.m. at Fruitvale BART Station in Oakland or at 8:10 at East Creek Point parking area. Trip focuses on shorebirds and ducks, and ends around noon, with a possible extension around Bay Farm Island. This is a loop from Fruitvale BART Station to SF Bay Trail at East Creek Point, Damon Marsh, Arrowhead Marsh, and Doolittle

Pond Wildlife Sanctuary, bicycle/pedestrian bridge from Bay Farm Island, to Alameda and Fernside Blvd., Fruitvale Bridge, and back to Fruitvale BART Station. We will ride mainly on trails and on roads with bike lanes. Bring snacks and liquids, and dress for cool, windy weather. Bicycle helmet required. Rain cancels.

Exit I-880 at High St. in Oakland and go .25 mi. southwest toward High St. Bridge to Alameda. Just before bridge, turn left onto Tidewater Ave. and go .25 mi. East Creek Point Parking Area is accessed to right. Fruitvale BART Station in Oakland is just south of Fruitvale Ave. between E. 12th St. and San Leandro Blvd. Call leader for other options. View Saturday BART schedules at [www.transitinfo.org](http://www.transitinfo.org).



## A Morning in the Marshes

Palo Alto Baylands

December 4

Leader: Harry Fuller, 415.344.2363,  
[anzatowhee@yahoo.com](mailto:anzatowhee@yahoo.com), [www.towhee.net](http://www.towhee.net)

Meet at 8 a.m. at duck pond. We should see a dozen species of ducks and at least that many shorebirds, plus White Pelicans and raptors. Trip ends at noon. Check website for map: [www.paloaltonline.com/things\\_to\\_do/baylands.shtml](http://www.paloaltonline.com/things_to_do/baylands.shtml).

## San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum

Sundays, December 4, January 1

Leaders: Allan Ridley and Helen  
McKenna, 415.566.3241; Ginny Marshall,  
650.349.3780

For this monthly half-day trip, meet at 8 a.m. at front gate of Botanical Garden, Ninth Ave. at Lincoln Way.

## Eastshore State Park

Albany

Sunday, December 4

Leader: Michael Butler, 510.684.3375,  
[mjbkl@earthlink.net](mailto:mjbkl@earthlink.net)

Meet at 10 a.m. at west end of Buchanan, next to racetrack. We will bird Albany Bulb

and adjacent areas looking for birds to add to the new park's bird list, including shorebirds, ducks, and other waterbirds, and learning about the new park.

Go west on Marin Ave. and cross San Pablo, where Marin becomes Buchanan. Continue under freeway toward racetrack. Park in parking area at end of road.

## Gray Lodge and Sacramento Wildlife Refuges

Sutter, Butte, and Glenn Counties

Saturday and Sunday, December 10–11

Leaders: Steve and Renee Margolin,  
530.342.6476

We will look for wintering geese (four species), Tundra Swans, a variety of ducks, raptors, and Sandhill Cranes. On Saturday we will meet at 9 a.m. and caravan through Gray Lodge, then visit other sites in Sutter, Butte, and Glenn Counties. On Sunday, we will meet at 9 a.m. at the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge. You may join us for one or both days. For details on travel times and meeting locations, accommodations, and other information, see the November *Gull* or go to the Field Trips at [www.goldengateaudubon.org](http://www.goldengateaudubon.org).  
[\$]

## Aquatic Park

San Francisco

Sunday, December 11

Leader: Carol Kiser, SF Maritime National Historical Park ranger, 415.561.7100 or 561.7104

Meet at 9:30 a.m. at foot of Hyde Street Pier, at Hyde and Jefferson, for this 2-hour beginners' walk to discover birds in the urban environment. Dress in layers. Trip is wheelchair accessible.

## Wednesday at Arrowhead Marsh

Oakland

Wednesday, December 14

Leader: Courtenay Peddle, 510.532.8911  
(no calls before 9am). [capeddle@there.net](mailto:capeddle@there.net)

Meet at Arrowhead Marsh parking lot at 9:30 a.m. to study and enjoy wintering birds. Up to 14 species of ducks and always the possibility of seeing Clapper Rails. Bring a scope if you have one. See December 2 trip, above, for directions.

## **Cache Creek Nature Preserve**

*Yolo County*

**Friday, December 16**

Leader: Rusty Scalf, 510.666.9936,  
rscalf@jps.net

Come visit Cache Creek, a pristine stretch of riparian woodland and wetlands. We will bird the preserve, then hear about the preserve from a docent. This trip should give us a decent list of winter waterfowl and woodland birds. Meet at the conservancy visitor center at 8:30 a.m.. The preserve opens at 8 a.m. Bring water and lunch.

Take I-80 north just past Vacaville, then continue north on I-505 for about 20 miles. Get off at exit 21 and go east on Highway 16 (toward Woodland) for about 5 miles. Turn left on County Road 94B and left again on County Road 22. Conservancy is directly across from Stallion Station. Allow 1 1/2-2 hours from Berkeley. For further information, go to [www.cachecreekconservancy.org](http://www.cachecreekconservancy.org).

## **Lake Merritt**

*Oakland*

**Saturday, December 17**

Leader: Travis Hails, 510.451.1207 (no calls after 9 p.m.), [travishails@yahoo.com](mailto:travishails@yahoo.com)

Meet at 8 a.m. at spherical cage near Nature Center at Perkins and Bellevue Sts. Focus will be on ducks and other birds. By bus: Take 12, N. or NL to Grand and Perkins and walk into park on Perkins. By car: Park in free lot at boathouse, 568 Bellevue. From parking lot, walk past children's art center to far side of bird yard with freshwater ponds.

## **Eastshore State Park**

*Berkeley*

**Wednesday, December 21**

Leaders: Marilyn Nasatir, 510.845.1029, [mnasatir@berkeley.edu](mailto:mnasatir@berkeley.edu); Inge Svoboda, 510.548.4308, [i\\_svoboda@yahoo.com](mailto:i_svoboda@yahoo.com)

Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Sea Breeze Market at

intersection of Frontage Rd. and University Ave. This will be an easy 2 hour stroll with a chance for some exciting and varied birds. We will look for shorebirds, waders, ducks, gulls, raptors, and songbirds, and learn about the birdlife and habitats of this new park. Bring a scope if you have one. Trip ends at 11:30 a.m. Heavy rain cancels. Take I-880 to Berkeley and exit at University Ave. If you go via I-880 north, after exiting eastbound onto University, turn around where possible and then head west over freeway toward Marina. Sea Breeze Market is on southwest corner of University Ave /I-880 frontage road intersection

## **Lake Merritt and Lakeside Park**

*Oakland*

**Wednesday, December 28**

Leaders: Hilary Powers, 510.834.1066, Ruth Tobey, 510.528.2093, [ruthtobey@earthlink.net](mailto:ruthtobey@earthlink.net); Travis Hails

Meet at 9:30 a.m. on lake side of Nature Center at Perkins and Bellevue Sts. We'll look around, then go down lake toward Embarcadero or up path across street from Nature Center to Children's Fairyland. Trip ends at noon or before. See December 17 trip, above, for directions.

## **Monterey Bay and Coastal Areas**

*Monterey County*

**Saturday, December 31**

Leader: Don Starks, 408.266.2969 (evenings), [starkle@earthlink.net](mailto:starkle@earthlink.net)

Meet at 9 a.m. in Monterey at foot of Coast Guard Pier at southeast end of Cannery Row. Bring quarters for parking. We will bird this area, then drive north, stopping at various spots including Moss Landing, and looking for loons, grebes, gulls, aleids and rocky coastline species. Bring lunch and a scope if you have one.

[S]

## **key**

 **Carpool**

[S] **Entrance fee required**

 **Biking trip**

## **Winter Raptors of Robinson Road**

*Solano County*

**Sunday, January 8**

Leaders: Bob Power, 510.482.9601, [rpowers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rpowers@sbcglobal.net); Michael Butler, 510.684.3375, [mjbkt@earthlink.net](mailto:mjbkt@earthlink.net)

Trip is limited to 14 birders so reserve ahead with Bob Power. Be prepared to carpool. We will take only 4 vehicles out of Suisun. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Raley's in Suisun for this half day trip. The eastern Solano County agricultural fields are known for wintering raptors such as Ferruginous Hawks, Rough-legged Hawks, and Prairie Falcons. We'll also look for Mountain Plovers, Burrowing Owls, and other surprises. Bring layers, snacks, lunch, liquids. Note: There are no facilities once we leave Suisun.

Take I-80 east to Rt. 12. Go on Rt. 12 east about 3.5 miles to Grizzly Island Rd /Sunset Dr. in Suisun. Turn left at intersection, then left into Raley's parking lot.

## **Let's See Some Cranes!**

*Rio Vista, Solano County*

**Saturday, January 14**

Leader: Harry Fuller, 415.344.2363, [anzatowhee@yahoo.com](mailto:anzatowhee@yahoo.com), [www.towhee.net](http://www.towhee.net) Meet at 8:30 a.m. at eastern end of Orinda BART parking lot. We expect to see Sandhill Cranes, Tundra Swans, raptors, and ducks and shorebirds galore. We will carpool from BART station to area east of Rio Vista. Expect cold temperatures.

## **Honey Lake and Greater Sage-Grouse**

*Lassen County*

**Saturday-Sunday, March 25-26**

Leader: Dave Quady, 510.704.9353, [davequady@att.net](mailto:davequady@att.net)

We will search for Greater Sage-Grouse, Bald Eagles, and other wintering birds of the Eastern Sierra. Trip is limited to first 20 participants who sign up with leader after January 27. Detailed directions will be provided to those confirmed on trip. Lodging is available in Susanville; primitive camping in Honey Lake State Wildlife Area. Be sure to bring warm clothing, lunches for both days, and a scope if you have one. Carpooling is encouraged.



Contact Susan Groves, Field Trips Coordinator, at 510.654.5954 or [grovesusan@gmail.com](mailto:grovesusan@gmail.com):

- if you can share a ride or if you need a ride,
- if you have difficulty reaching a leader and need information,
- if you have suggestions for trips, or
- if you are interested in leading a trip.

# OBSERVATIONS

October 1-31, 2005  
Bruce Mast



October once again provided the transition from fall to winter. The early weeks were dominated by reports of neotropical migrants and eastern vagrants, but late month saw increasing first-of-season reports of returning ducks and other winter visitors. The coast reported an explosion of California Meadow Voles, but the jury is still out regarding its effects on raptor movements.

## Loons to Ducks

Three Red-necked Grebes returned to local waters this month, beginning 10/3 at Limantour Beach, PRNS, MRN (DE). The remaining 2 reclaimed their customary positions at Bodega Bay, SON (EH) and off Crissy Field, SF (JCI). The pelagic highlight this month came from the 10/1 trip to Cordell Bank, MRN, which documented a **Parkinson's Petrel** (*Procellaria parkinsoni*) sitting on the water. It provided great looks and posed for pictures to support a possible addition to the state checklist (RS).

Beginning 10/21, 3 Cattle Egrets worked the lawn at Crissy Lagoon, SF (LC; mob). A **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** (*Nyctanassa violacea*) joined a Black-crowned flock behind an Inverness Park (MRN) store on the 11th and remained through the end of the month (RS; mob). A solo Brant stopped in at Rodeo Lagoon, MRN, on the 29th (WL; BM). Wintering Redheads returned to Redwood Shores, SM (CCu, PB; mob); Salt Pond A10, SCL (MR); and Emeryville, ALA (DWi).

## Raptors to Alcids

Candidate for best raptor at the GGRO hawkwatch was a Northern Goshawk, which passed over Hawk Hill, MRN, on the 27th and continued across the Golden Gate into SF airspace (mob). SF hawkwatchers from Battery Godfrey noted a Broad-winged Hawk on the 2nd (AH, PS). On the 13th, SFBBO monitors spotted a Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk on a powerline tower at the

Newby Island Landfill, SCL (EF). Six Ferruginous Hawks were reported in the region beginning on the 7th (mob) and Ferruginous traffic over Hawk Hill picked up by the 3rd week of the month. Beginning 10/27, Rough-legged Hawks were sighted from Battery Godfrey, SF (MZ); near the Spaletta Plateau, PRNS, MRN (LL, CLI); and over the Marin Headlands (NWh). Prairie Falcon sightings were called in from Chimney Rock, PRNS, on 10/7–15 (KA; CS); Las Gallinas Sewage Ponds, MRN, on the 22nd (BP); and CCFS, SCL, 10/26–29 (MR; BBo).

Up to 5 Pacific Golden-Plovers continued on the mudflats at Shollenberger Park throughout the month (LH; mob). By the 12th, a flock of 50-plus Mountain Plovers had returned to southern SOL, where they were noted in a field that was being flooded near Pitt School Rd., south of Midway (TC). An 10/6 count of 32 Pectoral Sandpipers at CCFS, SCL, was a new season high (SRt, ST, JS, MR). The same observers noted a juvenile Stilt Sandpiper. Several more Stilts were reported at Bolinas Lagoon, MRN, on the 2nd (EDB). Shollenberger Park produced the region's only Ruff sighting, where 3 were observed foraging on the 24th (AL).

The 10/10 pelagic trip counted 6 South Polar Skuas (DSh; mob). On the 1st, a couple Sabine's Gulls wandered by Oyster Pt. in S. SF, SM (RT). An 10/30 seawatch from Pigeon Pt., SM, yielded 2 Black-legged Kittiwakes (RT). A few passing Common Terns stopped over in bayside waters off SF and SM through the 19th (RT, AW, MB). Three Tufted Puffins were a highlight from the 10/10 pelagic trip from Bodega Bay (DSh; mob).

## Doves to Thrashers

Big Day birders on 10/6 logged Long-eared Owls along San Felipe Rd. and at Monte Bello OSP, SCL (SRt, ST, JS, MR). Two days later, another Big Day team chalked up a Long-eared Owl at Redwood RP, ALA

(KO, DQ, BL). On the 30th, hawkwatchers at Land's End, SF, watched a Short-eared Owl make the Golden Gate crossing (SB). A Common Poorwill delighted birders atop Mt. Davidson, SF, on the 5th (PS; mob) and a calling bird at Monte Bello OSP added to the Big Day tally in SCL on the 6th (SRt, ST, JS, MR). On the 27th, a Chimney Swift made a pass over CCFS, SCL (SRt). A SM Big Day team ID'd a Costa's Hummingbird in Half Moon Bay on the 7th (AJ).

A Williamson's Sapsucker visited an Oakland, ALA, neighborhood near Skyline and Castle Drive 10/27–29 (SS; mob). Juvenile Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers turned up in Inverness Park, MRN, on the 11th (RS); at Stevens Cr. CP, SCL, 10/17–28 (PD; mob); and in GGP, SF, on the 31st (mob). Not to be outdone, a Red-naped Sapsucker spent 3 days at Valle Vista, Moraga, CC, beginning 10/1 (DWi; BG, JCo).

A lingering Hammond's Flycatcher was found foraging in the understory along Gazos Cr. Rd., SM, on 10/8 (RT), and a Dusky Flycatcher was still at El Polin Springs in the Presidio on the 21st (JLo; ADM). Tropical Kingbirds were noted at 3 locales. An unusual vireo at the McLaren Rhododendron Dell in GGP on 10/30–31 was identified as a Bell's Vireo, apparently of the eastern race (ES; mob). A Plumbeous Vireo spent most of the month at CCFS, SCL, beginning on the 5th (ST; mob). Stinson Beach, MRN, hosted a Philadelphia Vireo 10/16–18 (KH; DVP, JR).

Wandering Rock Wrens turned up at Coyote Pt., SM, on the 9th (RT) and at the Martinez train station, CC, on the 21st (KS). The Presidio Townsend's Solitaire moved over to Battery Godfrey on the 2nd (AH, PS). Also in the Presidio, a **Wood Thrush** (*Hylocichla mustelina*) at El Polin Springs created a stir on the 20th (MB; mob). CCFS banders netted a Gray Catbird on the 26th (GB). A Sage Thrasher joined the night herons in Inverness Park on the 11th (RS).

## Wood Warblers to Finches

Overall warbler numbers dropped off in October but several sightings were noteworthy.

A Virginia's Warbler visited the East Wash in Lincoln Park, SF, on the 16th (NWa). A Lucy's Warbler in Half Moon Bay, SM, appeared sporadically through the 24th at a vacant lot on Granelli Ave. (AJ). On 10/10, a Prothonotary Warbler turned up near the Bear Valley Visitor's Center, PRNS, MRN (RS). On the 9th, a possible **Connecticut Warbler** (*Oporornis agilis*) at Strawberry Hill in GGP left birders craving a better look (AH; DA, AW, PS). On the 2nd, an immature **Mourning Warbler** (*Oporornis philadelphicus*) was documented at Stinson Beach, MRN (KH).

A normally sedentary Rufous-crowned Sparrow wandered to Cole Valley, SF, on the 16th (PS). On the 9th, an American Tree Sparrow shocked a birder visiting the PG&E substation at Coyote Pt., SM (RT). Clay-colored Sparrows were reported from 15 locales and 4 more locales produced Brewer's Sparrows. Vesper Sparrows were recorded in Half Moon Bay on the 2nd (RT); at Skylawn Cemetery, SM, on the 5th (ADM); and at Lagoon Valley Park, Vacaville, SOL, on the 29th (GS, LS, EW, EP). On the 16th, a Lark Bunting greeted visitors at the Winton entrance to Hayward RS, ALA (BRi). A Fox Sparrow at McLaren Rhododendron Dell, GGP, on the 31st was probably a vagrant Red race (JCI, CLo). Birders reported 3 Swamp and 17 White-throated Sparrows. A hatch-year Harris's Sparrow joined a **Zonotrichia** flock in Brisbane, SM, on the 22nd (RT). The season's first Chestnut-collared Longspur was reported from Chimney Rock, PRNS, on 10/30 (BF).

On the 22nd, a late Blue Grosbeak turned up at Stevens Cr. in Mountain View, SCL (RK, PK). A vagrant Indigo Bunting visited a water bath in Bolinas, MRN, on the 31st (KH). An immature Dickcissel at Stevens Cr. in Mountain View on the 14th was just the 3rd SCL county record of this species (MR). On the 29th, a Bullock's Oriole was a late visitor to Rodeo Lagoon, MRN (WL). An out-of-range Lawrence's Goldfinch was noted in a spruce tree in Upper Cole Valley, SF on the 8th (PS). Finally, an Evening Grosbeak made a rare appearance in Muir Beach, MRN, on 10/5 (DMK).

## Wood Warbler Sightings

### Nashville Warbler

10/1	L. Merritt, ALA	BM
10/6	Sunnyvale Baylands Park, SCL	RK, PK
10/18	Lower Simond's Loop, the Presidio, SF	DA
10/22	Water Lane, Pescadero, SM	ADM
10/25	Sunset Circle, L. Merced, SF	DA
10/25	Mt. Davidson, SF	PS
10/27	Wharf Rd., Bolinas, MRN	KH
10/29	Pine Gulch Cr., Bolinas Lagoon, MRN	BF
10/29	Granelli Ave., Half Moon Bay, SM	AJ

### Northern Parula

10/7	Guadalupe River Trail, SCL	AV
10/23-29	Redwood Cr., Muir Beach, MRN	DMK
10/23	Muir Beach, MRN	NO

### Chestnut-sided Warbler

10/1	Drakes Beach, PRNS, MRN	CCo; BC
10/1-22	Sierra Pt., Brisbane, SM	RT; ADM
10/2	Pescadero Cr., Pescadero, SM	RT
10/10	Granelli Ave., Half Moon Bay, SM	AJ

### Black-throated Blue Warbler

10/27	Sunnyvale Baylands Park, SCL	PK; mob
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### Blackburnian Warbler

10/28	Historic M Ranch, PRNS, MRN	MT
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### Prairie Warbler

10/8	Pescadero Cr., Pescadero, SM	RT
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### Palm Warbler

10/2	L. Merritt, ALA	BM
10/2	East Fort Miley, SF	MB
10/5	Pillar Pt., SM	AJ
10/7-9	Coyote Pt., SM	PM; RT
10/11	Inverness Park, MRN	RS
10/19	S. L. Merced, SF	DA, HC
10/23-29	Rodeo Lagoon, MRN	WL
10/25	Wharf Rd., Bolinas, MRN	KH

### Blackpoll Warbler

10/5-8	Palo Alto WPCP, SCL	SRt; mob
10/10	Etheldore Street, Moss Beach., SM	RT
10/25-29	Harding Rd., L. Merced , SF	DA; mob

### American Redstart

10/2	Jewel L., Tilden RP, CC	BBr
10/4	Merrie Way, SF	DA

### Prothonotary Warbler

10/10	Bear Valley Visitor's Center, PRNS, MRN	RS
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### Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphicus*)

10/2	Stinson Beach, MRN	KH
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### Canada Warbler

10/6-7	CCFS, SCL	SRt, MR, ST, JS; mob
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### Abbreviations for Observers:

ADM, Al DeMartini; AE, Al Eisner; AH, Alan Hopkins; AJ, Alvaro Jaramillo; AL, Arthur Lyons; ALC, Andy LaCasse; AV, Ann Verdi; AW, Adam Winer; BBa, Bob Battagin; BBo, Bill Bousman; BBr, Bob Brandriff; BC, Brent Campos; BD, Bob Dyer; BF, Brian Fitch; BG, Bingham Gibbs; BL, Bob Lewis; BM, Bruce Mast; BO, Becky Olsen; BP, Bob Power; BRe, Bob Reiling; BRi, Bob Richmond; CCo, Chris Conard; CCu, Craig Cummings; CLi, Cindy Lieurance; CLo, Calvin Lou; CS, Clark Stanton; DA, David Armstrong; DE, Daniel Edelstein; DMK, David MacKenzie; DQ, Dave Quady; DSh, Debbie Shearwater; DVP, David VanderPluym; DWe, Dave Weber; DWi, Denise Wight; EDB, Ed DeBellevue; EF, Eric Feuss; EH, Ed Harper; EP, Eric Pilote; ES, Emilie Strauss; EW, Erin Wright; FV, Frank Vanslager; GB, Gina Barton; GS, Gordon Schremp; HC, Hugh Cotter; HSt, Dick Stovel; JCI, Josiah Clark; JCo, Judi Cooper; JL, Jim Lomax; JLu, John Luther; JR, Jean Richmond; JS, John Sterling; KA, Ken Anchimbaud; KH, Keith Hansen; KO, Kris Olson; KS, Kirk Swenson; KW, Ken Wilson; LC, Luke Cole; LH, Lisa Hug; LL, Les Lieurance; LS, Laurie Schremp; MB, Michelle Brodie; MD, Matthew Dodder; MR, Mike Rogers; MT, Matthew Timmer; MZ, Matt Zlatunich; NO, Norman Ong; NWa, Nathaniel Wander; NWH, Nick Whelan; PaG, Pat Gordon; PB, Pat Boor; PD, Peggy Don; PhG, Phil Gordon; PK, Pat Kenny; PM, Peter Metropulos; PS, Paul Saraceni; RC, Roy Carlson; RK, Roland Kenner; RS, Rich Stallcup; RT, Ron Thom; SB, Steve Bauer; SH, Steve Huckabone; SRT, Steve Rottenborn; SRv, Steve Rovell; SS, Sylvia Sykora; ST, Scott Terrill; TC, Terry Colborn; TH, Travis Hails; TM, Terrie Miller; WL, William Legge

Semicolons separate original observer(s) from subsequent observer(s). Abbreviation "mob" = many observers; "oob" = other observers. Information is compiled from BirdBox transcripts and regional listservs; the author apologizes for any errors or omissions.

**Abbreviations for Counties and Others:** ALA, Alameda; BBA, Breeding Bird Atlas; CBC, Christmas Bird Count; CC, Contra Costa; CCFS, Coyote Creek Field Station; Cr., Creek; Cyn., Canyon; DENWR, Don Edwards SF Bay National Wildlife Refuge; EEC, Environmental Education Center; Ft., Fort; GGP, Golden Gate Park; GGRO, Golden Gate Raptor Observatory; L., Lake; MDSP, Mount Diablo State Park; Mt. Mount; MRN, Marin; N., North; NAP, Napa; NSMWA, Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area; NWR, National Wildlife Refuge; OSP, Open Space Preserve; Pt., Point; PRNS, Pt Reyes National Seashore; RP, Regional Park; Rd., Road; Res., Reservoir; RS, Regional Shoreline; S., South; SB, State Beach; SCL, Santa Clara; SEFI, SE Farallon Island; SF, San Francisco; SFBBO, San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory; SM, San Mateo; SOL, Solano; SON, Sonoma; SP, State Park; SR, State Reserve; WPCP, Water Pollution Control Plant

## Volunteers Needed to Help Compile Observations!

Golden Gate Audubon seeks dependable volunteers to help compile data for the monthly Observations. An interest in bird distribution and movements is essential, but advanced knowledge is not required. Training will be provided, and credit given in each Gull issue. If interested, please contact Bruce Mast at observe@goldengateaudubon.org.

Finding the right solution is complex. Wind is an important source of renewable energy and plays an important role in addressing global climate change—one of the most harrowing long-term threats to bird populations around the world. And Golden Gate Audubon is supportive of wind energy that is truly green.

But the wind energy operation at Altamont Pass is far from green. The Altamont Pass Wind Resources Area was built in the wrong place: it lies amid the highest-known density of Golden Eagle nesting territories in the world and along an important migratory area for raptors and other birds. The

windmill technology at Altamont is more than two decades old—antique by today's standards. Replacing outdated turbines with new technology may offer an answer that works for both the wind industry and the birds.

Golden Gate Audubon has two goals. One is to reduce avian mortality significantly at Altamont Pass. Because Altamont Pass is the world's largest wind farm, Golden Gate Audubon seeks a positive resolution of the bird kill issue that will be significant for the future of wind development throughout the U.S. and around the world.

by Elizabeth Murdock  
Executive Director, Golden Gate Audubon

A native of Minnesota, she grew up in Winona, a small town on the Mississippi River. At the University of Wisconsin, she focused on field zoology and conducted surveys on stream habitat degradation and the spawning habits of brook trout. During a summer in Central America, she studied the behavior of Mantled Howling Monkeys. In law school, she was an editor of the *Animal Law Review*, specializing in the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, and public lands and grazing practices.

Although a new resident of the Bay Area, Samantha is familiar with San Francisco Bay from her work drafting legal briefs for the Pacific Environmental Advocacy Center. "I learned a lot about the threats facing the bay, as well as its spectacular diversity of wildlife and habitat," she says. "And in my visits to the Bay Area, I discovered what a

beautiful and diverse community this is."

Samantha finds Audubon to be "a truly unique organization. We enjoy respect in the conservation community nationwide, due to our strong foundation in science. Furthermore, our membership is unlike any other, and we have dedicated volunteers who bring decades of experience to the table and expertise on many issues."

Golden Gate Audubon is special, she says, because "we're working with local communities on issues right in our backyard and engaging in restoration projects, getting to see firsthand the results of our work."

Samantha is looking forward to working with Golden Gate Audubon's many members, volunteers, and colleagues, and we are delighted to welcome her to Golden Gate Audubon.

by Marjorie Blackwell  
President, Golden Gate Audubon

## Donations

Thank you for your generous donations to support our many conservation, education, and member activities!

### Least Tern (\$200 to \$499)

Richard Bachenheimer

### Clapper Rail (\$100 to \$199)

Harry Fuller\*, Helena Kirkwood

### Gifts (to \$99)

J. Garth Alton, Ruth Doty, Judith Dunham (*Save the Quail*), Lewis Feldman, Elaine Geffen (*Save the Quail*), Henry Kielarowski\*, Christiana Macfarlane (*Save the Quail*), Rachel Medanic (*Save the Quail*),

Robert Meyers (*Save the Quail*), Cora Pitcock (*Save the Quail*), Joan Robinson (*Save the Quail*), Farrel Schell (*Save the Quail*), Alexander Senicki, Glenn Sibbald, Timothy Walsh (*Save the Quail*), Theodore Wilmoth

### In Memory of

Ethel Brenner: Karen and Warren Bird

\* With GGA Supporting Membership

## A Message from Our Treasurer

Golden Gate Audubon owes its financial success to the continued generosity of its members. This is clearly evident when looking at the financial statements on the facing page.

For the years ended June 30, 2005 and 2004, Golden Gate Audubon received \$177,024 and \$180,436, respectively, in gifts and donations and an additional \$63,000 and \$23,175, respectively, in membership dues. This public support not only funded member services and administration but also went to conservation and education programs. Golden Gate Audubon could not sustain its programs and activities without your membership dues, volunteer efforts, and generosity.

For the year ended June 30, 2005, Golden Gate Audubon's net assets increased \$184,513, largely due to \$71,902 in investment earnings and \$140,000 in proceeds from the settlement of a lawsuit to preserve open space in Orinda, California.

Golden Gate Audubon has accumulated \$837,539 in net assets since its inception, of which \$210,358 is restricted for future program services. We follow good budgeting practices to sustain important ongoing programs and to initiate new ones. Our accumulated net assets help us to cover unanticipated costs when important ecological or conservation issues suddenly emerge.

For the year ended June 30, 2005, 71 percent of expenditures were for educational programs and conservation and another 11 percent were for member services, including publication of the *Gull*. Only 18 percent of expenditures were for management, general, and fundraising expenses. We are a lean, volunteer-driven, membership organization.

We thank you for helping us to remain a leading wildlife conservation and education organization in the San Francisco Bay Area and look forward to working together to build on our accomplishments.

by Al Peters  
Treasurer

# GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Balance Sheets June 30, 2005 and 2004

	2005			2004
	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	COMBINED TOTAL
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Cash And Cash Equivalents (Note 3)	\$ 172,074			\$ 172,074
Other Receivables	17,615			17,615
Inventory	1,940			1,940
Investments (Note 4) (At Fair Value)	500,476	\$ 155,134	\$ 55,224	710,834
Deposits	1,922	—	—	1,922
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>694,027</b>	<b>155,134</b>	<b>55,224</b>	<b>904,385</b>
<b>Property and Equipment, Net (Note 5)</b>	<b>5,912</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>5,912</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 699,939</b>	<b>\$ 155,134</b>	<b>\$ 55,224</b>	<b>\$ 910,297</b>
	=====	=====	=====	=====
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>				
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Accounts Payable				
- Trade	\$ 5,605			\$ 5,605
- Salaries	13,099			13,099
- Agent (Note 6)	39,355			39,355
Payroll And Sales Taxes Payable	14,699			14,699
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>72,758</b>			<b>72,758</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>627,181</b>	<b>\$ 155,134</b>	<b>\$ 55,224</b>	<b>837,539</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 699,939</b>	<b>\$ 155,134</b>	<b>\$ 55,224</b>	<b>\$ 910,297</b>
	=====	=====	=====	=====

## Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets June 30, 2005 and 2004

	2005			2004
	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	COMBINED TOTAL
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>				
<b>Public Support</b>				
<b>Direct Contributions</b>				
Gifts And Donations	\$ 166,054	\$ 10,970		\$ 177,024
Grants	—	194,914		194,914
<b>Total Direct Contributions</b>	<b>166,054</b>	<b>205,884</b>		<b>371,938</b>
<b>Indirect Contributions</b>				
Earth Share	1,502	—		1,502
<b>Total Public Support</b>	<b>167,556</b>	<b>205,884</b>		<b>373,440</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>				
Membership Dues	63,000			63,000
Investment Earnings, Net (Note 4)	71,902			71,902
Merchandise Sales (Net Of Direct Expenses Of \$8,360 In 2005 And \$6,833 in 2004)	1,760			1,760
Lawsuit Settlement Proceeds (Note 7)	140,000			140,000
Other	1,087	—		1,087
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>277,749</b>			<b>277,749</b>
<b>Total Public Support and Revenue</b>	<b>445,305</b>	<b>205,884</b>		<b>651,189</b>
<b>Net Assets Released from Restriction</b>	<b>140,254</b>	<b>(140,254)</b>		
<b>FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES</b>				
Program Services:				
Conservation	216,896			216,896
Educational Programs	112,645			112,645
Member Services	54,181			54,181
Management And General	63,187			63,187
Fundraising	19,767			19,767
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>466,676</b>			<b>466,676</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>118,883</b>	<b>65,630</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>184,513</b>
<b>Net Assets at Beginning of Year</b>	<b>508,298</b>	<b>89,504</b>	<b>55,224</b>	<b>653,026</b>
<b>Net Assets at End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 627,181</b>	<b>\$ 155,134</b>	<b>\$ 55,224</b>	<b>\$ 837,539</b>
	=====	=====	=====	=====

Complete Golden Gate Audubon Society audited financial statements, with accompanying notes, are available for inspection at our office or by mail upon request.

# Give a Gift that Helps Local Wildlife

PLEASE GIVE A GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

This holiday season, present your nature-loving friends and family members with a gift they will enjoy the whole year. Through a one-year gift membership to Golden Gate Audubon, your friends or family will receive *The Gull*—informing them about GGA's conservation projects, field trips, and Speaker Series—and a 10 percent discount at our Nature Store. Gift members will receive a welcome letter informing them of their membership. To purchase a gift membership, fill out the form below and return it to our office, or call 510.843.2222.

**PLEASE SELECT A MEMBERSHIP LEVEL:**

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Student</b>                    | \$20      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Brown Pelican</b> (Individual) | \$25      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>California Quail</b> (Family)  | \$40      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Clapper Rail</b>               | \$100–199 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Least Tern</b>                 | \$200–499 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Peregrine Falcon</b>           | \$500–999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Golden Eagle</b>               | \$1,000+  |

I would also like to include a donation to support GGA's conservation, education and birding programs.

Gift Membership                  \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Additional Donation              \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Enclosed                    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your contributions to Golden Gate Audubon are fully tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.

## GIFT RECIPIENT INFORMATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY / STATE / ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_ **EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

## **YOUR INFORMATION**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE (H)** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY / STATE / ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_ **EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

#### PAYMENT INFORMATION

- My check, payable to **Golden Gate Audubon Society**, is enclosed.

Please charge my credit card:     VISA     MasterCard

CARD #  EXP (MM / YY)

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